

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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June 21, 2013

Hospital Patient Safety Report Provides Data, Analysis, and Recommendations



The Maryland DHMH Office of Health Care Quality (OHQC) has released its annual Hospital Patient Safety Report, which analyzes the serious adverse events reported by Maryland hospitals. In Fiscal Year 2012, hospitals submitted 286 reports of Level 1 adverse events, a decrease from 348 reports in FY 2011. Pressure ulcers and falls continue to make up the majority of the reports received, with 98 and 86 reports, respectively. These two types of events account for nearly two-thirds of all reports in FY12. Acute care hospitals accounted for 67 percent of all Maryland licensed hospitals and reported 94 percent of all adverse events. An increase in suicides, from five in FY 2011 to 16 in FY 2012, represents a troubling trend in reported events. Nine of these occurred outside the hospital shortly after discharge from emergency departments and inpatient behavioral health units.

These key findings have informed recommendations discussed in the report including the suggestion that hospitals should consider asking alert and oriented patients to sign an informed declination of services when the patients refuse basic interventions to prevent falls and pressure ulcers. Additionally, assessments of suicide risk in patients about to be discharged should include an assessment of hazards and the availability of weapons in the home.

Click [here](#) to view the Maryland Hospital Patient Safety Program 2012 Report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the suicide rate.

New Program Addresses Mental Health Care Gap



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the GE Foundation and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center recently launched a new program to bridge the mental health care gap in the U.S. The initial goal is to fill the gap in the training of general

practitioners by having academics train primary-care providers to strengthen the coordinated mental health care received by patients in community health centers. Once a week, providers at these community clinics link with mental health specialists via videoconferencing in order to present and discuss more challenging cases. Over time, the primary care providers in that community setting will draw from the academics' expertise and become more adept at handling complex cases. Effective health care involves behavioral change and a personal relationship between the provider and a patient. The intention is to keep patients coming back to the primary care provider they trust rather than transitioning between multiple specialists for their health care needs. The newly developed program encourages more coordinated care and lower long term costs encourage providers to develop and expand these methods.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the number of emergency department visits due to behavioral health conditions.

National HIV Testing Day

With the annual observance of National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) on June 27th, advocates, policy makers, healthcare providers, and others encourage people to "Take the Test. Take Control." More than half of American adults have never been tested for HIV. And at least 1 in 3 people who test positive for HIV are tested too late to get all the benefits of treatment. The goal of National HIV Testing Day is to raise awareness about how people can take the test and take control. By involving community members and community leaders in the fight against the spread of the disease the goal of reducing infections can be achieved. It is essential to give community members the tools they need to address HIV and AIDS in their regions so they can advocate for the health and lives of their neighbors. The newest video, released by aids.gov, "Facing AIDS for National HIV Testing Day," is a short, shareable video that can be used to jump-start a conversation about the importance of HIV testing.



Click [here](#) for more information about HIV Testing Day.

Click [here](#) to see the video "Facing AIDS for National HIV Testing Day."

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing new HIV infections among adults and adolescents.

New Healthy Housing Standards Released



National Center for Healthy Housing

Approximately 30 million families live in unsafe and unhealthy housing with an array of problems and necessary repairs including broken heating and plumbing, holes in walls and windows, roach and rodent infestation, crumbling foundations, and leaking roofs. These housing conditions can lead to serious health and safety hazards that can cause allergies, asthma, injuries, cancer,

and lead poisoning, which increase health care costs and negatively impact children's health, development, and well-being. A new standard recently published by the American Public Health Association and the National Center for Healthy Housing ensures the health and safety of U.S. homes by defining appropriate livable housing conditions. The National Healthy Housing Standard identifies hazardous living conditions and offers safety protections to address these problems, with recommendations for household systems, including plumbing; lighting and electricity; heating, ventilation and energy efficiency; moisture and mold control; pest management; and chemicals such as radon, lead, formaldehyde and asbestos. The standard is intended to be used by government agencies and property owners to make certain that the nation's housing stock is adequately maintained and protects the health and safety of residents. The National Committee on Housing and Health, which monitored the standard's development, is requesting comments on the standard through July 31.

Click [here](#) to read the entire press release.

View the [SHIP measures](#) and [tools](#) for reducing blood lead levels in children.

News from the Office of Primary Care Access

The Role of Small, Rural Hospitals, and Care Systems in Effective Population Health Partnerships

The following guide describes how small and rural hospitals as well as care systems can develop effective population health partnerships that balance the challenges and opportunities encountered in providing health management.

Click [here](#) to view the guide.

Immigration Bill Lowers Hurdles for Foreign-Born Docs

The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration

Modernization Act proposes revisions to the Conrad State 30 Program for recruiting foreign-born physicians. Some of the proposed changes are: The Conrad program could be a permanent part of the immigration law; J status for foreign-born physicians completing medical residencies/fellowships would be classified as a "dual intent" status; a physician could no longer be denied J status on the ground that he or she did not intend to return to his country of origin; the number of Conrad waivers available to a state could be raised in increments of five and more. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

The Affordable Care Act Webinar Series

The Department of Health and Human Services will host webinars on the main provisions of the Affordable care Act and how you can access care in your community on the following dates:

July 11, 2013 at 2:00pm EST

Click [here](#) to register.

August 7, 2013 at 3:00pm EST

Click [here](#) to register

Funding Announcements

Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG)

Application deadline: Jul 15, 2013.

These grants intend to improve the economic condition of rural areas by assisting entities in the start-up, expansion or operational improvement of rural cooperatives and other business entities.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)

Application Deadline: July 15, 2013.

The MAERDAF, administered by the Rural Maryland Council, provides grants to rural-serving nonprofit organizations and rural community colleges that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education.

Click [here](#) for more information.